

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CPR-01 SAM-01 SY-05

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O R 200220Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9363

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, (ROWLING, WALLACE E.) NZ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE WASHINGTON VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER ROWLING

REF: A) WELLINGTON 0726;

B) MARCH 29 AMBASSADOR SELDEN/LEO MOSER TELECON

1. FOLLOWING TELECON (REF B), I DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRANK CONRNER POSSIBLITY UNDER DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON OF PM ROWLING SEEING PRESIDENT FORD ON MAY 7, ASSUMING THIS WAS AGREEABLE TO ROWLING. I EXPLAINED TO CORNER THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM OF AUSTRALIA AND PM LEE OF SINGAPORE WOULD PROBABLY BE IN WASHINGTON AT SAME TIME AND THAT A WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON INVOLVING BOTH ROWLING AND WHITLAM COULD BE EXPLORED, AGAIN ASSUMING THIS HAD ROWLING'S APPROVAL.

2. CORNER HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME SAYING THAT AFTER DISCUSSING FOREGOING WITH ROWLING, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DECIDED AGAINST VISITING WASHINGTON IN MAY. ROWLING WAS GRATEFUL FOR ALL EFFORTS DEPARTMENT HAD MADE TO ARRANGE

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A SUITABLE WASHINGTON VISIT. PRIME MINISTER STILL LOOKED

FORWARD TO VISITING WASHINGTON AT SOME LATER TIME.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CORNER DID NOT SAY SO, ROWLING'S REAL REASON FOR TURNING DOWN MAY 7 POSSIBILITY IS THAT WHITLAM WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AT SAME TIME. NEW ZEALANDERS ARE IN ANY CASE ALWAYS SENSITIVE ABOUT BEING LOST IN SHADOW OF AUSTRALIA. FOR INTERNAL AND OTHER REASONS ROWLING NEEDS THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIMSELF AT THIS TIME AND FEARS THAT WHITLAM WOULD GET MOST OF THE ATTENTION IF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS APPEARED IN WASHINGTON ON SAME DAY.
SELDEN

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